IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

IN AND FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA

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FRANCIS DROUILLARD, MARK GALPERIN, JOHN TURNACLIFF, CHRIS CARPINIELLO, WALTER JENSEN, MATTHEW BENNETT AND MIA CAMERA

Plaintiffs,

vs.

LYNDA ROBERTS IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS MARIN COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS AND SHIRLEY WEBER, PH.D., IN HER OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE,

Defendants

Case No.:

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

- I. Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment – Equal Protection
- II. Violation Of The National Voter Registration Act – Failure to Maintain Voter Rolls
- III. Violation Of The Help America Vote Act – Excessive Ballot Errors

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. This action seeks declaratory and injunctive relief to prevent

 Defendants Lynda Roberts, in her official capacity as Marin County Registrar of Voters,
 and Shirley Weber, Ph.D., in her official capacity as California Secretary of State, from
 violating Plaintiffs' voting rights under the Fourteenth Amendment, the National Voter
 Registration Act (NVRA) [52 U.S.C. §§ 20507-20511], and the Help America Vote Act
 (HAVA) [52 U.S.C. §§ 20901-21145].
- 2. Plaintiffs allege that the actions of Defendants, including the failure to remove ineligible voters from registration rolls, allow illegal votes that dilute the votes of eligible voters, infringing Plaintiffs' rights to participate in a fair election.

II. VENUE AND JURISDICTION

3. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 as the claims arise under federal statutes including NVRA [52 U.S.C. § 20507(b)] and HAVA [52 U.S.C. § 21081(a)(5)].

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4. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), as Defendants perform official duties within this District, and the alleged violations occurred in Sacramento, CA, and Marin County, CA.

III. PARTIES

Plaintiffs:

5. Francis Drouillard, Mark Galperin, John Turnacliff, Chris Carpiniello, Walter Jensen, Matthew Bennett, and Mia Camera are California residents and registered voters impacted by Defendants' alleged failure to maintain current and accurate voter rolls.

Defendants:

- 6. Lynda Roberts serves as Marin County's Registrar of Voters, responsible for maintaining voter rolls and ensuring the lawful administration of elections in Marin County.
- 7. Shirley Weber, Ph.D. serves as California Secretary of State, tasked with overseeing and implementing statewide election laws, including those concerning voter registration and roll maintenance.

IV. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 8. In advance of recent elections, Marin County's voter rolls included numerous ineligible voters who had either moved out of state or were otherwise unqualified under state and federal law. Plaintiffs allege this failure has allowed ineligible voters to cast ballots, diluting legally cast votes and diminishing election reliability.
- 9. The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) requires States to implement systems to maintain accurate voter rolls by removing ineligible voters who are deceased, have relocated out of state, or otherwise lost eligibility.

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- 10. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) establishes that federal elections must be administered to strict error rate limits, permitting only one voting system error per 500,000 ballot positions. Defendants' failure to remove ineligible voters has generated an excessive number of ballot errors in Marin County elections.
- 11. Plaintiffs bring this action to compel Defendants to enforce federal and state laws that require maintaining current, accurate voter rolls, thereby safeguarding the integrity of elections and ensuring that legitimate voters are not disenfranchised.

V. CAUSES OF ACTION

First Cause of Action: Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment (Equal Protection)

- 12. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each preceding paragraph as though fully set forth herein.
- 13. The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment safeguards voters from dilution of their votes by unlawful votes cast by ineligible voters. Reynolds v. Sims, 377 U.S. 533, 554-55 (1964).
- 14. By failing to remove ineligible voters from the rolls, Defendants have sanctioned election practices that reduce the weight and impact of votes cast by eligible voters, depriving Plaintiffs of equal protection under the law.

Second Cause of Action: Violation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)

- 15. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each preceding paragraph as though fully set forth herein.
- 16. The NVRA mandates that each state conduct programs to ensure only eligible voters remain on voter registration rolls, as stipulated in 52 U.S.C. § 20507(a)(4) and (b).

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17. Defendants' failure to implement these programs in Marin County has allowed thousands of ineligible voters to remain on the voter rolls, contravening the NVRA's explicit requirements to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process.

Third Cause of Action: Violation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

- 18. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each preceding paragraph as though fully set forth herein.
- 19. HAVA establishes error rate limits for voting systems and requires each state to maintain accurate voter rolls by regularly removing ineligible voters (52 U.S.C. § 21081(a)(5)).
- 20. The excessive number of ballot errors generated by votes cast by ineligible voters in Marin County exceeds the error rate permitted under HAVA, rendering recent elections unreliable and violative of federal election law.

VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court enter judgment against Defendants and grant the following relief:

- 1. Declaratory Relief: A declaration that Defendants' failure to maintain accurate voter rolls violates the Equal Protection Clause, NVRA, and HAVA.
 - 2. Injunctive Relief: An injunction requiring Defendants to take immediate steps to:
 - Remove ineligible voters from Marin County's voter rolls; 0
 - 0 Implement a verification system to ensure only eligible voters are mailed ballots in future elections; and
 - Comply with NVRA and HAVA requirements to maintain accurate and current 0 voter registration rolls.